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ABSTRACT

To obtain data about the Harper College students' and community's attitudes toward athletic programs at the college, a survey was conducted of 200 full-time and 200 part-time students and 200 randomly selected households within the school district. The return rate for the survey questionnaire was 57 percent for full-time students, 49 percent for part-time students, and 37 percent for the households. Results of the survey, which are tabulated, showed that: (1) 61 percent of the students and 41 percent of the households favored an expanded athletic program; as related to physical education, 77 percent of students and 62 percent of households favored expansion; (2) athletic programs that would be popular additions were swimming, diving, skiing, rifle, gymnastics, and hockey; (3) the largest barrier to increasing both participant and spectator interest in athletics was the lack of facilities; (4) 50 percent of the community indicated they would be willing to pay $5.00/year or more to expand the program, and 51 percent of the students would support a $1.00 increase in the activity fee to enable program expansion; and (5) 85 percent of the community and students favored the building of a new athletic facility. An appendix presents a description of the various sports programs at Harper College and a copy of the community survey form. (DB)

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In the development of a five year plan for athletics at Harper, the Ad Hoc Committee on Intercollegiate and Intramural Athletics found a need for data concerning the students' and communities' attitude toward these programs at Harper. In response to these needs, a survey was made of 200 full-time and 200 part-time students as well as 200 households selected at random within Harper's district. After a number of follow-up, both mail and telephone, a 57 percent return rate was obtained for full-time students, 49 percent for part-time students and 37 percent for the community at large.

The results of the survey are as follows:

1. The general reaction toward the athletic program indicates 61 percent of the students and 41 percent of the community at large favor expansion. In addition, the general reaction toward physical education indicates 77 percent of the students, along with 62 percent of the community at large, favor expansion.

2. In considering what areas new athletic programs might be offered, the survey indicated swimming and diving and skiing would be very popular additions from a participants standpoint. Rifle and gymnastics would also be popular additions. With regard to spectator interest, hockey, gymnastics and swimming and diving would be the most popular additions.

3. The biggest single perceived barrier to increasing participant and spectator interest in athletics is the lack of facilities. Lack of a wider variety of programs is perceived as a lesser barrier for participants and lack of publicity as a lesser barrier for spectator interests.

4. In considering monetary support for expanding the athletic program, 50 percent of the community indicated they would be willing to pay five dollars or more per year to support this goal. If the 63 percent of non-respondents are apathetic and not likely to vote in a referendum, then a referendum on the issue would be close. If voluntary contributions were sought instead, about $90,000 might be raised each year. Moreover, 51 percent of the students say they would support at least a one dollar increase in the activity fee in order to expand the athletic program.

5. There was even more support for building a new athletic facility as 85 percent of the students and community favored such an idea. In terms of financial support, 59 percent of the community would pay five dollars or more per year in taxes or contributions toward such a project. Again assuming the non-respondents wouldn't vote, it would seem there is a high probability for passage of an athletic facility referendum. If only voluntary contributions were sought, $110,000 per year might be raised. The students indicated that 56 percent of their numbers would favor at least a one dollar increase in the activity fee.

The detailed results follow.

	Number Sent	Number Received	Response Rate
Full-time students	200	115	57.5%
Part-time students	200	98	49.0%
Community residents	200	74	37.0%
Total	600	287	47.8%

General reaction to our present varsity Athletic program.	Full-Time Number	Full-Time Percent	Part-Time Number	Part-Time Percent	Community Number	Community Percent	Total Number	Total Percent
More emphasis should be placed on athletics, increase recruiting, offer scholarships and develop national contenders in some sports	46	40	26	27	16	22	88	26.8
More sports should be added	35	28	24	24	13	18	72	21.8
The program is fine as it is.	40	35	33	34	41	55	114	34.6
The program should be reduced.	7	7	2	2	3	4	13	3.6
Our own facilities	8	8	4	4	3	4	15	4.6
More programs for girls	4	3	2	2	-	-	6	1.8
More publicity	3	2	2	2	-	-	5	1.6
There should be an athletic program to meet the demand of the student body.	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	.3
Make physical education mandatory for all students	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	.3
No comment	5	4	9	1	1	1	15	4.6
	148	100	103	100	78	100	329	100.0

Sports students and friends would likely participate in at the varsity level at Harper.

	Full-Time Number	Part-time Number	Community Number	Total Number
Tennis	44	33	40	117
Swimming & diving	36	35	45	116
Skiing	36	21	10	67
Football	35	24	20	89
Baseball	26	20	41	87
Basketball	26	20	41	87
Rifle	25	27	13	65
Gymnastics	23	16	37	76
Fencing	22	7	10	39
Ice Hockey	19	9	14	42
Indoor track	18	8	13	39
Soccer	17	6	16	39
Track	15	4	3	22
Wrestling	14	7	26	47
Golf	14	29	27	70
Cross Country	10	4	23	37
Volleyball	4	-	-	4
Handball	2	-	-	2
Archery	2	2	-	4
Other	13	6	2	19

Cheerleading Softball LaCrosse
Intramural Ping Pong Bowling
Judo Billards
Bowling Field Events
Badminton Roller Derby
Frisbee Bridge
Billards Volleyball
Rugby
Horsemanship
Cycling
Skating (other than Hockey)
Horseback riding
Table Tennis

Varsity sports at Harper students or adults would most likely be interested in attending as a spectator

	Full-Time Number	Part-Time Number	Community Number	Total Number
Baseketball	75	54	42	171
Football	64	54	50	168
Gymnastics	53	34	29	116
Ice Hockey	52	45	21	118
Baseball	48	37	34	119
Swimming & diving	48	34	28	110
Soccer	30	22	10	62
Wrestling	30	23	14	67
Track	30	24	16	70
Indoor track	29	21	7	57
Tennis	29	28	15	71
Skiing	27	12	6	45
Cross Country	22	17	6	45
Fencing	22	22	9	53
Rifle	16	19	8	43
Golf	16	12	7	35
Other	11	1		12
Volleyball	Archery			
Handball				
Badminton				
Frisbee				
Rugby				
Horsemanship				
Cycling				
Skating (other than Hockey)				
Horseback Riding				
Table Tennis				
Billards				

Circumstances under which students and friends would participate in varsity sports at Harper	Full-Time		Part-Time		Community		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
If there were better physical facilities at Harper	55	48	27	22	16	15.9	98	23.7
If the right sports were offered	40	35	20	17	10	9.8	70	16.9
Under no circumstances	33	29	28	24	6	5.9	67	16.2
I or they would now	27	23	20	17	57	55.9	104	25.1
If athletic scholarships were offered	19	17	9	8	9	8.8	37	9.0
If Harper were a national contender in a particular sport	14	12	12	10	3	2.9	29	7.0
Under other circumstances	6	5	2	2	1	.9	9	2.1
	194	100	118	100	102	100.0	414	100.0

Girls Teams
More interest in Competing
More school spirit

Girls Teams

If my Children were older

Circumstances under which students or adults would attend Harper varsity athletic events as a spectator	Full-time		Part-Time		Community		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
If a good central athletic facility were available on campus where home games could be played	80	70	44	45	24	32	148	30.8
If there was more publicity and I knew where and when to go	49	43	51	52	41	55	141	29 3
If the sports I was interested in were played	37	32	22	22	12	16	71	14.8
If Harper was a national contender in the sports I was interested in	25	22	24	24	7	9	56	11.6
I attend now	14	12	8	8	1	1	23	4.8
Under no circumstances	8	7	12	12	9	12	29	6.0
If I knew some of the participants	-	-	-	-	10	14	10	2.1
Under other circumstances Lack of school spirit - 2 If women were participating - 1	3	3	-	-	-	-	3	.6
	216	100	161	100	104	100	481	100.0

Degree of support to increase the varsity of programs offered and an increase in the quality of these varsity athletic programs	Full-time		Part-time		Community		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No more funds should be allocated to athletics	15	13	14	15.2	14	20	43	15.6
The college should provide the additional funds from the general educational fund and not increase activity fees	46	40	27	29.3	21	30	94	34.2
STUDENTS								
I would support an expansion and improvement in the athletic program through an increase in student activity fees of the following amount:								
$1.00 per year	11	10	9	9.8	-	-	20	7.3
$2.00 per year	21	18	16	17.4	-	-	37	13.4
$3.00 per year	8	8	10	10.9	-	-	18	6.5
$4.00 or $5.00 per year	12	10	12	13.1	-	-	22	8.0
More than $5.00 per year	2	1	4	4.3	-	-	6	2.3
ADULTS								
I would support and expansion and improvement in the athletic program through increased taxes or donations to a boosters club in the following amount:								
$5.00 per year	-	-	-	-	13	18	13	4.7
$10.00 per year	-	-	-	-	16	23	16	5.8
$15.00 per year	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	.2
$20.00 per year	-	-	-	-	5	7	5	1.8
$25.00 per year	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	.2
$30.00 or more per year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	115	100	92	100.0	71	100	276	100.0

General reaction to Harper's present physical education and intramural sports program	Full-time Number	Full-time Percent	Part-time Number	Part-time Percent	Community Number	Community Percent	Total Number	Total Percent
I would attract more students if better facilities were available	76	66	44	44	32	43	152	34.4
The programs should be advertised more to attract additional students	62	54	42	43	25	34	129	29.3
More sports should be offered	37	32	21	21	12	16	70	16.0
The program is fine as it is	19	17	19	19	28	38	66	15.0
The program should be cut back as physical education and intramural sports are of low priority	6	5	5	5	0	0	11	2.5
Girls events	1	1	2	2	-	-	3	.3
More intramural competition	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	.1
No comment	2	2	8	8	-	-	10	2.4
	203		141		98		442	100.0
General reaction if Harper decided to build a field house and swimming pool to house many of the varsity athletic programs; physical education and many of the intramural sports programs								
I would be highly in favor of the idea	73	64	47	53	22	31	142	51.1
I would favor the idea	30	26	30	33	33	46	93	33.5
No opinion	5	4	6	6	12	17	23	8.3
I would be against the project	3	3	6	6	4	6	13	4.6
I would be vigorously opposed to the project	4	3	2	2	1	0	7	2.5
	115	100	91	100	72	100	278	100.0

Degree of support for the construction of a field house and a swimming pool at Harper for athletics and physical education	Full-Time		Part-Time		Community		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No such facility should be built	7	6	6	7	7	11	20	7.4
I would support the construction of such a project providing the present activity fee is not increased and the funds come from the general college sources	40	35	35	39	19	30	94	34.9
STUDENTS								
I would support the construction of such a project through increased student activity fees in the following amount:								
$1.00 per year	12	10	8	9			20	7.4
$2.00 per year	32	28	21	23	-	-	53	19.7
$5.00 per year	17	15	11	12	-	-	28	10.4
$10.00 per year	5	5	3	3	-	-	8	3.0
$more than $10.00 per year	2	1	6	7	-	-	8	3.0
	115	100	90	100				
COMMUNITY								
$5.00 per year	-	-	-	-	15	23	15	5.6
$10.00 per year	-	-	-	-	12	19	12	4.5
$15.00 per year	-	-	-	-	4	6	4	1.5
$20.00 per year	-	-	-	-	6	9	6	2.2
$25.00 per year	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	.4
$30.00 or more per year	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
					64	100	269	100.0

Rank of four sports program areas with regard to the emphasis and effort Harper should put into each. Scale: 1 - top priority 4 - low priority	Full-time Average	Part-time Average	Community Average	Total
Varsity athletics	2.12	2.07	2.26	2.1-
Intramural sports	2.31	2.26	2.04	2.2-
Physical education	2.32	2.29	2.39	2.33
Extramural sports	3.13	3.22	3.16	3.16

APPENDIX

Description of Various Sports Programs at Harper College

VARSITY

The Intercollegiate Athletic Program is comprised of eight sports which include Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Football, Tennis, Track and Wrestling. Harper is a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association and the Skyway Community College Conference. Contests are scheduled predominately with other Junior Colleges within the Chicago Area.

The Annual Operating Budget for the Intercollegiate Athletic Program is based on a 50-60% income from College funds and a 30-40% income from student activity fees, for which Harper Students receive free admission to home contest. Approximately 5% income is realized from gate receipts. By following the rules of the Skyway Conference, Harper College does not actively recruit student athletes from outside the College district nor give Athletic Scholarships.

Present limitations of on-campus facilities makes it necessary to hold home contest in football and basketball in local high school facilities. The present indoor athletic facility was not originally designed as an athletic facility and is inadequate for basketball contests. The football field lacks accommodation for spectators.

INTRAMURALS

The Intramural Athletic Program includes all those sports and recreational activities organized to include a variety of interests for many students. Competition is conducted among and between Harper students only. Some 30 to 40 different activities are offered annually, according to student interest, availability of facilities and supervision. Some examples of activities are Golf, Tennis, Bowling, Flag Football, Volleyball, Billiards, Weight Lifting, Table Tennis and Softball.

Funding for the annual operational costs of the Intramural Athletic Program is based on 50% from college funds and 50% from student activity fee funds.

EXTRAMURAL

Extramural Ice Hockey, girl's gymnastics and girl's tennis are out-growths from the Intramural Program and are conducted on an Interscholastic basis. These are "club type sports" and the funding of these activities are primarily acquired through assessments on the student participants. Because of the financial limitations, scheduling of contests and practices are also noticeably limited.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Educational Program is that part of the College's instructional program which provides a course of study for future teachers in physical education and a variety of physical education courses for credits for the student desiring to improve or maintain his physical health. Physical Education is no longer required in college, however, up to two credit hours or physical education may be included as electives in the minimum 60 required hours Associate Degree. Seven hundred to nine hundred students are enrolled in Physical Education Courses per semester.

ATHLETIC SURVEY

Community Form

Please read over the descriptiors of the present athletic and physical education program at Harper and answer the following questions.

1. What is your general reaction to our present varsity athletic program? Check (✓) all those which are appropriate.

   _____ A. The program is fine as it is.

   _____ B. More sports should be added.

   _____ C. The program should be reduced.

   _____ D. More emphasis should be placed on athletics, increase recruiting, offer scholarships and develop national contenders in some sports.

   _____ E. Other comments (describe) _____

   _____

2. Which sports would you most likely encourage your sons, daughters, or friends to participate in at the varsity level at Harper? Check (✓) the participation column for all these sports. Also which varsity sports at Harper would you most likely be interested in attending as a spectator? Check (✓) the spectator column for all these sports.

Sport	Participation	Spectator
Baseball	____	____
Basketball	____	____
Cross country	____	____
Golf	____	____
Football	____	____
Tennis	____	____
Wrestling	____	____
Track	____	____
Ice Hockey	____	____
Gymnastics	____	____
Fencing	____	____
Soccer	____	____
Swimming & diving	____	____
Indoor track	____	____
Rifle	____	____
Skiing	____	____
Other (specify)		
_____	____	____
_____	____	____
_____	____	____
_____	____	____

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3. Under which circumstances would you encourage your sons, daughters, or friends to participate in varsity sports at Harper? Check (✓) all those appropriate.

_____ A. I would encourage them now.

_____ B. If the right sports were offered.

_____ C. If athletic scholarships were offered.

_____ D. If Harper were a national contender in a particular sport.

_____ E. If there were better physical facilities at Harper.

_____ F. Under other circumstances (specify) _____

_____ G. Under no circumstances.

4. Under which circumstances would you attend Harper varsity athletic events as a spectator? Check (✓) all those appropriate.

_____ A. I attend now.

_____ B. If there was more publicity and I knew where and when to go.

_____ C. If the sports I was interested in were played.

_____ D. If Harper was a national contender in the sports I was interested in.

_____ E. If a good central athletic facility were available which could be identified with Harper.

_____ F. Under other circumstances (specify) _____

_____ G. Under no circumstances.

5. To what degree are you willing to support an increase in the varsity of programs offered and an increase in the quality of these varsity athletic programs? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. No more funds should be allocated to athletics.

_____ B. If the students want an improvement in the athletic program, they should support it through increased student activity fees.

I would support an expansion and improvement in the athletic program through increased taxes or donations to a boosters club in the following amount:

_____ C. $5.00 per year

_____ D. $10.00 per year

_____ E. $15.00 per year

_____ F. $20.00 per year

_____ G. $25.00 per year

_____ H. $30.00 or more per year

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6. What is your general reaction to Harper's present physical education and intramural sports program? Check (✓) as many as apply.

_____ A. The program is fine as it is.

_____ B. It would attract more students if better facilities were available.

_____ C. More sports should be offered.

_____ D. The program should be cut back as physical education and intramural sports are of low priority.

_____ E. The programs should be advertised more to the public at large to attract additional students.

_____ F. Other comments _____

_____

7. What would be your general reaction if Harper decided to build a field house and swimming pool to house many of the varsity athletic programs; physical education and many of the intramural sports program? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. I would be highly in favor of the idea.

_____ B. I would favor the idea.

_____ C. No opinion.

_____ D. I would be against the project.

_____ E. I would be vigorously opposed to the project.

8. To what degree would you support the construction of a field house and a swimming pool at Harper for athletics and physical education? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. No such facility should be built.

_____ B. If the students want such a facility the students should finance it.

I would support the construction of such a project through increased taxes or donations to boosters club in the following amount:

_____ C. $5.00 per year

_____ D. $10.00 per year

_____ E. $15.00 per year

_____ F. $20.00 per year

_____ G. $25.00 per year

_____ H. $30.00 or more per year

9. Please rank the four sports program areas with regard to the emphasis and effort you feel Harper should put into each. A number 1 would mean top priority and emphasis while a 4 would mean lowest priority and emphasis.

Program	Rank order (1 to 4)
Varsity athletics	_____
Intramurals sports	_____
Extramural sports	_____
Physical education	_____